



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Direct Support Professional Recognition Week**

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly-funded long term supports and services for millions of individuals with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including preparation of meals, helping with medications, bathing, dressing, mobility, getting to school, work, religious, and recreational activities, and general daily affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to their family and community, and enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives; and

**WHEREAS**, direct support professionals are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the decade; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Network of Community Options and Resources designates the week beginning September 11, 2011, as "National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week" to recognize the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2011 Direct Support Professional Recognition Week in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this week.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State